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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Construction of Railroads and Ironworks in  
 Eastern Slovakia; Air Raid Shelter under  
 Construction in Dvur Kralove

DATE OF  
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1. The Czechoslovak railroad construction project in the Kysak-Margecany (R49/E16) area has top priority for 1952, when it is estimated that one billion Czech crowns will be allotted to it. Czech authorities are disappointed in the progress made on the construction to date. Only 1,200 meters of the tunnel through Boyanowsky Hill, which will be about 4,000 meters long when complete, have been excavated.\* Work is under way from both ends; the tunnel is being driven at a rate of 2.8 meters per day in each shaft. Technicians say it is impossible to speed up the project even given the presently assigned priorities.
2. The existing railroad line between Kosice and Turna nad Bodvou (R49/E03) will be extended to establish a connection with the line at Roznava. As a part of this project a 4,500-meter tunnel will be driven in the vicinity of Krasnohorská-Podhradie (R49/D83).
3. Railroad construction plans for 1952 include the construction of a branch line from Usti nad Labem to the Czech-East German border.
4. Air raid shelters under construction in Dvur Kralove (051/G73) have roofs built of 30 centimeters of reinforced concrete and covered with 15 to 25 meters of earth. These shelters have six emergency exits and at least one small emergency hospital.
5. The development of the Czech iron industry and the construction of ironworks are now based on the utilization of ore imported from the USSR. One high priority project is the HUKO (Hutni Kombinát) works being built in Kosice in Eastern Slovakia to utilize Russian ore.

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 \*  Comment:  as of 1 October 1951 about 700 meters of this tunnel had been dug. This figure agrees with the rate of progress reported above. In the earlier report it was stated that galleries were being dug from the sides of the hill so that the tunnel could be worked from six faces at once. It seems probable that this tunnel is being dug through Bujanova Hill about four kilometers southeast of Margecany.

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